

AIDS
Network of
Edmonton
Society

The
AIDS
Network

V.I.P. NEWS



Volume 8, Issue 5

Nov/Dec 1996

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HELPLINE



488-5816

V.I.P. News

*A bi-monthly newsletter for the
supporters of the
AIDS Network of Edmonton Society.*

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

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Special Holiday Issue

*Season's
Greetings*

*From the staff at the
AIDS Network of Edmonton.*

*Mark your calendars!
We will be holding a
Christmas Open House
at the Network on
December 12 from 4-8pm.*

*Please note that the Network will be closed from
December 24 until January 2, 1997 when we will
resume regular office hours.*

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Congratulations and Welcome!

to the following people who have just completed their volunteer training

Alex M.
Sharla T.
Jaquie Q.
Shawn E.
Philip

Maureen H.
Jim R.
Laura C.
Kelly P.
Shannon McC.

Cary Z.
Minnie T.
Chandra M.
Gayle S.
Sarah G.

Speakers' Bureau Training

for both new and experienced speakers will be held early in the New Year.

If you are interested in either becoming a speaker with the AIDS Network's Speakers' Bureau or refreshing your skills, please contact either Heather or June at 488-5742 for more information.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed for **Dance for Life!**

Grant MacEwan Community College (West End Campus)
Sunday, December 1, 1996, 8:00am - 5:30pm

Check-in, t-shirt sales, gift giveaways, green room, runners

Volunteers needed to promote **Dance for Life** at the Coast Terrace Inn for a weekend competition of country and swing dance. Saturday, November 16, 1-10pm (shifts)
Sunday, November 17, 1-3pm

Volunteers required for reception shifts, weekdays, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm. Come and be a part of our team; get to know us; have some fun; and keep up those job skills!



Care Team Program

A Care Team

is a group of volunteers who provide you with a combination of practical assistance, personal care and companionship in your home. There will be another Care Team Training in January.

If you are interested in this unique volunteer opportunity, please contact Greg or June at 488-5742 for more information.



Remember the
Christmas Open House
December 12th
from 4-8pm

Come and chat with me
and catch up on what's
new

June Hughes
Volunteer Coordinator

GET IN STEP WITH DANCE FOR LIFE

Dance for Life, one of our most innovative and fun fundraising efforts, returns after a two year absence! A day of dance held in conjunction with World AIDS Day on Sunday, December 1, Dance for Life gives any aspiring or experienced dancer a chance to get out and try any one of 25 dance classes. "Dance for Life is designed to offer something for everyone. We offer classes at a more advanced level, but you don't need any experience, just the desire to get out and try something new," says Lisa Pasin-Linklater, Event Coordinator. "You can attend as many classes as you like. All you need to attend is to collect \$40 (or more) in pledges per class. Some people have already committed to attending 3 classes!"

"We really wanted to make sure we had a wide variety of dance forms, and stretched our definition of dance beyond the forms that most people associate with dance: we've included things like self discovery through movement, stage fighting and explorations in mask! We've also got a real world beat theme with classes in several forms of ethnic dance, from East Indian to Latin." Dance for Life classes are offered in jazz (beginner to advanced), ballet, country two-step, modern, tap (beginner to advanced), jive, tango, cha-cha (novice level), musical theatre, East Indian, hot Latin rhythms, belly dancing, line dancing, self discovery through movement, stage fighting, explorations in mask, Sacred Circle, flamenco, and funk/hip-hop (for all levels).

Dance for Life is made possible through the support of some of Edmonton's most talented dance instructors who are donating their time and talent to contribute a total of 40 hours of dance instruction. Grant MacEwan Community College, Jasper Place Campus, is back on board as the venue sponsor, contributing studio space and accompaniment. Everyone is eligible to receive door prizes, and any dancer who raises over \$80 will receive a Dance for Life t-shirt. Anyone who raises \$120 or more will be entered into a draw to win a weekend getaway for two in Vancouver from AMA Travel, plus a \$100 gift certificate from Eaton Centre. Dancers who raise \$250 or more are entered in a draw for a Panasonic Camcorder (valued at \$950) as well as a \$100 Eaton Centre gift certificate," adds Pasin-Linklater.

So, join us in taking a step (or two) toward finding a cure for AIDS. Your efforts in collecting pledges and in bringing friends to Dance for Life will profoundly affect the levels and types of services we are able to offer. Get your Dance for Life registration package and pledge sheets by calling the AIDS Network of Edmonton at 488-5742 or by dropping by the office at #201, 11456 Jasper Avenue.

Let it all "Hang Out" for the Holidays

Are you thinking of hosting a party for the holiday season? Why not make it a party with a difference by "Letting it all hang out for the Holidays?" All over Edmonton, holiday celebrations will be held in support of the ANE. "Hosts are sending out invitations which include Origami ornaments, and are asking their guests to bring the ornament to their party with a donation to the Network included inside," says Lisa Pasin-Linklater, Event Coordinator. "Because out hosts know their guests best, they are suggesting an appropriate amount for their guests to bring. Lots of our hosts thought this would be a great alternative to guests bringing bottles of wine or flowers."

The parties range from the traditional to the adventurous and from small, intimate gatherings to no holds barred holiday bashes. "Two couples have teamed up to host a progressive dinner which includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner. They're taking their guests tobogganing between courses! Several co-worker at a local arts company are co-hosting a huge party for over 100 people; other people are hosting a small New Year's Eve dinner party for 8 people; we even have a few offices getting on the bandwagon by hosting a party instead of their traditional office gift exchange; it's great to see people using their imagination," says Pasin-Linklater.

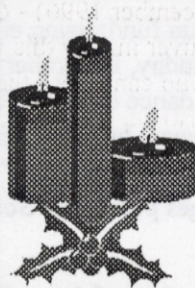
Anyone who's interested in hosting a party can contact Lisa at 448-5917. You'll be supplied with invitations and ornaments for your guests.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Hi! My name is Edward Sandberg and I'm the new Coordinator of Support Services. As many of you probably already know there have been many changes at the ANE and in Support Services specifically. David Fitzgerald left at the end of September after many years of dedicated service and leadership. Taking over from him is a great challenge as he was able to keep many tasks and responsibilities on the go at once.

Despite the large shoes I have to fill I am very excited to be back at the Network. For those of you who don't know me, I worked here at the Network as a Support Services worker from 1990 to 1993. Then I went back to school and completed my B.S.W. and later my M.S.W. It's interesting and somewhat disconcerting to come back in the position of my former boss!

This is a time of great change here at the AIDS Network. Greg and I in Support Services, and all the rest of the staff, are trying our best to maintain the high level of programming which the community has come to expect from us. As I am new to this position, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you, clients, volunteers and other interested individuals, to call or come in and visit and tell me what you would like to see from Support Services. Please let me know what you think we're doing right as well as where we are making mistakes. It's only with input from you that we can try and make Support Services more responsive to the community.



In Memorium . . .

We Remember

Kenneth P.

ON-GOING HIV SUPPORT GROUPS

Monday Night Support Group

Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society: Living Positive.
(Call the organization at 488-5768 for information prior to attending the meeting).

Heterosexual Support Group

This is a monthly facilitated support group where heterosexual individuals and couples meet to provide and receive mutual support. Contact Bernie Modrovsky @ 492-6098 for details.

Family, Friends and Partners Support Group

Please call 488-5742 for more information.

Caregivers Support Group

Meets every other Tuesday evening 7:30PM at
St. John's Church, 9830 - 149 St.
Contact Bernie Modrovsky at 492-6098 for details.

1-800-263-1638

HIV/AIDS Treatment Information

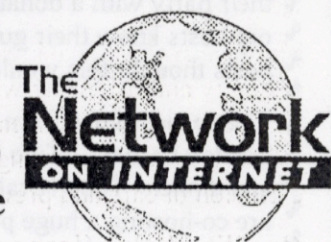
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Tuesday-Thursday

10am - 10pm (EST)

Friday 10am - 7pm (EST)

service bilingue disponible



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Community AIDS Treatment
Information Exchange (CATIE)

<http://www.catie.ca>

Funding provided by the AIDS Care, Treatment and Support Unit, Health Canada

World AIDS Day 1996: One World. One Hope

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day (1 December 1996) - *One World. One Hope* - echoes that of the 11th International Conference on AIDS held in Vancouver in July this year. "Improved drugs and drug combinations are bringing hope to infected people - at least those who can afford the new therapies," says Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "On the prevention front, there is also hopeful news. The challenge is to ensure that these hopes extend to *all* those threatened by the epidemic."

The Days' activities and events aim to capture the upbeat spirit which is just starting to pervade work surrounding the worldwide HIV/AIDS epidemic. For the first time since the epidemic began around 15 years ago, there are cautious grounds for optimism. The prospect of a world in which the spread of HIV and AIDS can be slowed, and the suffering they cause alleviated is finally dawning.

Under the banner of *One World. One Hope*, World AIDS Day 1996 is an occasion for focusing public and official attention on the epidemic. The Day has now become an annual event in most countries. It is used by those responding to the epidemic to provoke public discussion of AIDS issues and promote the spread of up to date information. On the strength of good news, World AIDS Day 1996 should be a landmark occasion.

According to UNAIDS, the United Nations body coordinating the international response to the epidemic, it would be premature to imply that AIDS is on the run. Over 22 million men, women and children are already living with HIV - the virus that causes AIDS - and others daily join them. More than three-fifths are in Africa and another fifth in Asia, which places the vast majority beyond reach of the latest drugs and medical technology.

Every day, there are around 8,500 new HIV infections. About 1,000 occur in children under 15. Most of the remainder occur in people in the prime of their economic and reproductive life. An increasing proportion are in women, now representing 42% of HIV infections. Over half are in young people under 25. Altogether, nearly 8 million people, including 1.5 million children under 15, have already developed AIDS since the epidemic began, and nearly 6 million have died. Over 9 million children under 15 have lost their mothers to AIDS.

Putting the Theme to Use

How can the theme *One World. One Hope* be put to use by organizations and individuals undertaking activities for World AIDS Day 1996?

The *One World* theme invites us to be inclusive. This is a world in which no society, and no group within society, can remain immune to AIDS as the epidemic evolves and metamorphoses. But there are particular vulnerabilities and risks connecting to age, sex or lifestyle. Involve women's groups. Involve youth. Involve people living with AIDS or HIV. Involve men having sex with men. Involve the military. Involve others whose occupations take them away from home, including long distance drivers and seagoers. Involve those in tourism and sexual services. Fight prejudice, stigma, and discrimination, within ourselves and as expressed in social attitudes and regulations.

The *One Hope* theme invites us to be positive. Spread the message that prevention works. Open up the dialogue about sexuality and behaviors which, when hidden provide HIV with its point of entry. Encourage the use of condoms. Help change attitudes which leave women and youngsters without knowledge of their vulnerability and with little chance of refusing sex or negotiating. Offer care to those infected with HIV or living with AIDS in their families. Support the extension of care and preventive techniques to those otherwise excluded. Fight divisiveness, denial, and depression.

One World. One Hope on World AIDS Day 1996 means working together for a world able to control HIV, and for a global society which offers care and support to all those whose lives have been touched by the epidemic.

For more information on World AIDS Day, the theme, or ideas on what you can do for Dec 1, contact Kathy, Education Coordinator at the AIDS Network, 488-5742.

Reorganizing the AIDS Network Administration

Today's economic environment is a vicious circle for non-profit organizations. Government cutbacks create uncertainty about long term funding, uncertainty increases competition for available donation dollars, and non-profit organizations are forced to either review and reallocate their resources or cut back themselves.

We have not escaped this circle: recently, our staff has been reduced and our Executive Director has resigned. We still provide the same services, so essential to our constituent groups, but to continue to do so, we will be prioritizing our services and activities to better fit our available resources.

Our 1995 Strategic Plan talks about the services we provide and who we provide them to. These services fall under three headings: Counselling, information, and education. Although what we do has not changed, we will initiate a process to review how we do it. Then, we will consult with those involved in our strategic planning and with other interest groups, via surveys and open discussions, to validate and develop our findings. We will have determined the following through this process: (1) which services are essential to our constituents and/or directly tied to our funding base, (2) what we can realistically provide given our present resources, and (3) what organizational structure is best suited to providing those services.

This reorganization is, therefore, essentially an internal refocusing so that our organization can meet both its responsibilities and the challenges of today's economic environment. By developing a lean, efficient, and effective machine, The AIDS Network of Edmonton will continue to uphold its fundamental principles.

Our target date for the completion of this process is the end of the year.

George Ilagan
Board of Directors

From the ANE Board of Directors to our membership, staff, clients and friends, sincere wishes for a very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

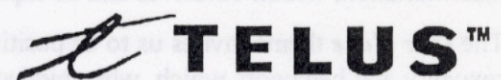
This year has been a year of change and rejuvenation at the AIDS Network of Edmonton. The Board looks forward to 1997 as an opportunity to enhance and finalize these initiatives.

To all our clients and especially to our truly fine and dedicated staff, thanks for the gifts of patience, understanding and respect which have been gratefully received and appreciated by all members of your board.



*Al Fitzpatrick
Chairperson, ANE Board of Directors*

The Care Team
Program gratefully
acknowledges the
generosity of

 **TELUS™**

for the donation of
communication
equipment.

1996 AIDS Walk Edmonton

There were clowns, music, and monkeys at the 1996 AIDS Walk Edmonton, held on September 29 at the Kinsmen Sports Centre. Approximately 1000 people attended the Walk, in spite of the cold weather, and enjoyed a day of food, fun and exercise. Some of the highlights: 3 enjoyable and fun sets of music by Tap Productions; a warm-up led by Patty Cakes Esq. - the clown; and a monkey running around the facility entertaining the masses with his? her? its? antics.

Thanks to all the walkers who walked and raised pledges for the four benefitting AIDS service organizations (ANE, Living Positive, Feather of Hope, and Interfaith Association). Your support is invaluable and irreplaceable.

A special thanks goes to all the volunteers, entertainers, guest speakers, and staff who made the day a success.

Pledges are still being collected, so a final total of money raised from this event will be announced in the next newsletter!

AIDS Walk



Edmonton 1996

Direct help for people living with HIV...

The Ross Armstrong Memorial Fund needs your help. This holiday season, please consider giving *directly* to people in the Edmonton area who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. One hundred percent of your donation goes to the people who really need it.

With cutbacks people living with HIV/AIDS are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. The Ross Armstrong Fund can help with emergency assistance to cover such necessities as food, money for medication or help paying rent or utilities. The Ross Armstrong Fund's original purpose was to enhance the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS. This might include such things as money for Christmas gifts for their children, a warm winter coat or paying for a family member to come for a visit. Ross Armstrong was one of the founding members of the AIDS Network and the first person in Edmonton to be diagnosed with AIDS. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Here is my seasonal gift to the Ross Armstrong Fund:

Name: _____

Address: _____

I enclose ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other _____

I would like to make my donation using:

☐ one personal cheque

☐ _____ post-dated cheques

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard card # _____

expiry date _____ / _____ / _____

name of cardholder _____

phone number _____

signature _____

Monthly gifts make giving easier...

We call it the 'S10 Solution' - a monthly contribution of \$10, \$15 or \$20 can make a difference all year long. Provide the Ross Armstrong Fund with 12 post-dated cheques. We'll deposit one each each month and provide you with a tax receipt at the end of the year.

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

Ross Armstrong Office

#201, 11456 Jasper Avenue
T5K 0M1

Phone 488-5742

FAX 488-3735

email ane@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Receipts mailed for all donations of \$20 or more.
Charitable Registration #0747212-11-25

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